

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended): A lighting device for balloons (2) inflatable with air or gas comprising an illuminant (6) received by a luminous element (4) which is arranged through the opening of the balloon (2) in the interior of the balloon (2), characterized in that the luminous element (4) has the shape of a cylinder closed on one side, wherein the closed end is arranged in the interior of the balloon (2) and the surface area of the cylinder is engaged with the opening area of the balloon (2), wherein the cross-section of the cylinder is dimensioned to be larger than the opening of the balloon (2) and the open end of the cylinder can be closed by a cap (4.1) through which a cable (8) is guided to the illuminant (6), the duct being designed so that the cable (8) can be displaced only by applying a certain force.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A lighting device according to claim 1, further characterized in that a tension ring (2.1) is provided on the surface area of the cylinder for additionally securing and sealing the opening of the balloon.

Claim 3. (currently amended): A lighting device according to claim 1 or 2, further characterized in that the luminous element (4) has a translucent partial area made of glass and/or plastic material.

Claim 4. (currently amended): A lighting device according to any one of the claims 1 to 3, further characterized in that the luminous element (4) as a whole consists of the translucent material.

Claim 5. (currently amended): A lighting device according to any one of the preceding claims 1, further characterized by a supporting element (12) which is fixed,

for instance by clipping, to the illuminant (6) and/or to a partial section (2.1) of the balloon (2) attached to said illuminant (6) and forming the balloon opening and which forms a supporting face for the outside of the balloon (2) in the area of the balloon opening.

Claim 6. (currently amended): A lighting device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ 1, further characterized by a support (5) arranged in the luminous element (4) for the at least one illuminant (6).

Claim 7. (currently amended): A lighting device according to claim 6, further characterized in that the support (5) extends in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the luminous element (4) and forms, at one end, a plate-shaped section (5.1) at which the illuminant (6) or a holder (7) for said illuminant is provided.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A lighting device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ 1, further characterized in that the cap (4.1) is part of the holder or support (5).

Claim 9. (currently amended): A lighting device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ 1, further characterized in that the illuminant (6) is one of a low voltage lamp, for instance a halogen lamp, or an illuminant (6) including at least one light diode element.

Claim 10. (currently amended): A lighting device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ 1, further characterized by a supporting element (12) which can be placed on the luminous element (4) so as to support the balloon (2).

Claim 11. (currently amended): A lighting device according to claim 10, further characterized in that the supporting element (12) has a conically extending supporting section (12.2) which forms a contact face for the outside surface of the balloon (2).

Claim 12, (currently amended): A lighting device according to claim 10 or 11, further characterized in that the supporting element (12) is adapted to be clamped to the luminous element (4).

Claim 13. (currently amended): A lighting device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~, further characterized in that the cable (8) is provided with a fixing member (13) inside the ~~cylinder~~ luminous element.

Claim 14. (currently amended): A lighting device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~, further characterized by a spacer (7.1) connected to the cable (8) and arranged in the ~~cylinder~~ luminous element, said spacer ensuring a predetermined distance between the illuminant (6) and the inner wall of the ~~cylinder~~ luminous element.